

4 September 1965

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Vietnamese Military Desertion Rates

1. Desertions from the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF), including the Regular Army (ARVN), Regional Forces (RF), and Popular Forces (PF), have reflected a rising trend from June 1964 through July 1965.

2. While desertions from the paramilitary components (PF and RF) of the South Vietnamese army have normally comprised half and sometimes more than half of the total number reported in any given month; desertions from the regular ARVN forces have also shown a generally rising trend.

## RVNAF DESERTION RATES (JUNE 64 - JULY 65)

	<u>Regular Force</u>	<u>Regional Force</u>	<u>Popular Force</u>	<u>Total</u>
June '64	1,232	1,477	1,983	4,692
July	1,164	1,335	2,214	4,713
Aug.	1,355	1,282	3,058	5,695
Sept.	1,734	1,332	2,667	5,733
Oct.	2,586	988	3,675	7,249
Nov.	2,820	1,026	3,109	6,955
Dec.	2,507	1,193	3,173	6,873
Jan. '65	2,384	1,160	3,359	6,903
Feb.	2,532	812	3,894	7,238
Mar.	5,018	1,137	5,010	11,165
Apr.	3,611	1,242	5,402	10,255
May	4,210	2,141	3,245	9,596
June	3,055	2,440	4,838	10,333
*July*	3,409	1,346	5,178	9,933

\*Through 27 July

3. The strength of the RVNAF is currently 535,700. This includes 279,000 in the ARVN, 112,700 in the RF, and 144,000 in the PF. In June 1964 these figures were 402,100 in the RVNAF, including 215,200 ARVNs; 87,300 in the RF; and 99,600 in the PF.

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